

W. B.

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PROPOSALS

For carrying on an

Effectual War

IN

AMERICA,

Against the

French and Spaniards.

*Bellum justum, quibus necessarium & pia Arma,
quibus in armis spes est.*

Tit. Liv.

L O N D O N :

Printed for John Nutt near Stationers-Hall.
M DCC II.

1702

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Proposals for carrying on
an Effectual W A R in
AMERICA, against
the French and Spaniards;

Humbly offer'd to the Consideration

OF THE

King's Most Excellent Majesty,

THE

*Right Honourable the Lords
Spiritual and Temporal;*

AND

*The Honourable the House of
Commons.*

TO

TO THE
READER.

IT is now above a Year since some Gentlemen meeting together accidentally, fell upon the Discourse of what might be done in the West-Indies, in case of a War.

A Peer of this Realm came in towards the latter end of the Conversation, and desiring some further Informations upon that Subject, in order to acquaint His Majesty with 'em, one of the Gentlemen writ the following Papers, intending to have waited upon his Lordship with 'em: But that Lord being since dead, the Author thinks it not improper to make 'em Publick.

PRO-

*Proposals for carrying on an Effectual War
in America against the French and
Spaniards.*

ALL Europe is justly alarm'd at the Succession of Spain so unexpectedly falling to the House of Bourbon, already too great : The entire Reconciliation, and, as may be said, Union of these two formidable Monarchies, cannot but with good Reasons cause the utmost Jealousies in all their Neighbours, who may be in danger of becoming their Prey. Inasmuch that a general Confederacy, and well-cemented League is absolutely necessary to support a vigorous and sudden War.

If you give these two Powers time, they will more firmly unite together, induc'd to it by the Apprehensions they have of other Nations. The French will inspire the Spaniards with their active and martial Temper,

— *Residesq; movebit
Rursus ad arma Vitos.*

with their Art of Government and Ma-

nagement of their Revenues, with their Methods of advancing and engrossing Trade ; and we must expect in a short time to see the Riches of the *West-Indies* fall into the Hands of these two Nations, and they exclude all others.

Of all their Neighbours the *English* have the greatest Interest to hinder this Mischief, and *England* is the only Power that can and ought to do it ; since its Colonies are so vast and populous, and since *America* is the only Place where *England* can well with Honour and Profit enlarge its Dominions, and soon become the most potent Nation in the World : And it looks as if Providence had pointed out that way, when we consider the vast Increase of the *English* in the *West-Indies*.

The *English* may easily ruin all the *French* Colonies in *America*, and drive all the *Spaniards* out of their vast, but ill-fortified Plantations : They are effeminate and wou'd surrender to a general Enemy, and many of 'em are willing to be transported to *Spain*, where they have Estates in Land or Money.

The *Spaniards* have possess'd the Fountains of Gold and Silver long enough, 'tis high time they shou'd pass into the Hands
of

of the *English*, who have in the same part of the World so many populous Colonies, and out of which young People may be drawn, and transported to better Places, as Swarms out of Bee-hives, to the incredible Advantage of the Nation in general.

If four and twenty Years Experience in those Parts, some Employments not very inconsiderable in Peace and War, which the Writer of this Paper has had among the *English* and the *French*; if having seen and been concern'd in most, if not all the Actions that have been in those Countries; if all these Things can enable him to judge rightly of the Matter, he thinks that he may, upon very good Grounds affirm, That a War in *America* may be very practicable, and, with God's Assistance, very successful.

The Miscarriages and ill Success of most of the Undertakings there in the late War, and the great Mortality which fell among the Forces sent thither, is perhaps an Objection, but many Things may be reply'd to it: The Incapacity of most of the Commanders, their little Skill in Military Affairs, the Disaffection in some, the want of Discipline and Order in general: And you may add to this, the ill Practices about the Plunder; such Disorders will hinder the

the best Troops from doing any Thing, much more such People as those Forces compos'd of.

As to the Mortality and the great Loss of Men it could not well be otherwise with unruly, drunken and dissolute People, who falling Sick had no Body to assist and look to 'em. Good Discipline, good Order, good Provisions, good Physick, and such like Necessaries, would certainly remedy all these Evils.

I do here with all Submission and Respect, propose a Method by which I am persuaded, that a War may be carried on in *America* with very little Charge, I mean by managing the Plunder and other Things of that Nature, in such a manner as the proposed War should feed and maintain it self; and there is no doubt but that making War, in a rich Country, if Affairs are rightly and honestly carried, the Conquer'd People may be made to defray the Charges, and so consequently the War will be enabled to support and maintain it self.

I likewise propose to raise Forces as soon as possible in all the Colonies out of the young People, who could be more easily transported any where; I would order them all into Independant Companies, each
of

of a 100 Centinels, with 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 1 Ensign, and 4 Serjeants: When they form a Batalion, or go upon Service, the Eldest or Senior Officer should command.

Regimenting of Forces is subject to a great many Inconveniencies, and is of no Use when the Regiment is not altogether, and serves in different Places; besides that, the State-Major takes up all the Spoil.

All the Standing Forces the *French* have in *America*, and all their Militia are Independant Companies. When they draw into a Batalion, the Senior Officer takes the Right Hand, and every other according to the Seniority of their Commission; so that the Service is perform'd as well as if they had Colonels, Lieutenant-Colonels and Majors, and it saves the King a great Sum of Mony.

Perhaps his Majesty may think it convenient to Model after that manner the Forces raised here in *England* to be sent to the *West-Indies*, since in a Series of Time it would save a great Sum of Mony, please very much the Militia, and take off all Occasions of Dissatisfaction and Murmurings about the Division of Spoil and Plunder, which might then be all equally divided to the several Companies, without distinction of Standing and Militia Forces. The Militia never repines at the

Right Hand and Post of Honour being taken by the Standing Forces, but cannot willingly see those who are allow'd Pay, pretend to a greater Share than they who have no Salary, and endure commonly more Hardship, and are usually put upon more difficult Service.

The well ordering of Plunder, and justly and impartially dividing it, is of very great Consequence; all our Divisions and Misunderstandings proceeded from thence.

At the taking of *St. Christophers* some were very busy about getting, hiding, securing and transporting of Plunder, whilst others were intent on Service, and minded their Duty; so that the Division of the Spoil and Plunder was not justly made.

I would provide good Arms and good Powder; and as most of those Countries have store of Horses, I would carry a great number of small, ordinary Saddles and Bridles, to mount the greatest part of the Forces and make 'em Dragoons, the most useful sort of Troops.

People in those Parts use upon Travelling in Woods, or such like Places, to carry along with 'em each Man his Pavilion to sleep under and defend him from Gnats, a most troublesome and intolerable Insect, and of an extraordinary bigness in some places. This Pavilion is made of thin Canvas, in such a Form that

that being spread and supported upon some Sticks planted in the Ground, a Man lies under it, the Canvas falling like the Curtains of a Bed, and so leaves no room for Gnats to get in. The Man has his Fufee between his Legs, and lies upon some Grass or Leaves, and in a March carries his Pavilion like a Shoulder-Belt. Tents would never hinder the Gnats. This is the Bocaneers-fashion, and by these Means their Incampments are soon made and soon raised.

Every Soldier shou'd have a good Fufee with a Bagonet of that sort that he may fire off his Fufee with the Bagonet fix'd ; one Pistol and a good Sword, and one Pavilion ; to every four Men I wou'd give a Brass-pot well Tinn'd within to dress Victuals, and a good Hatchet.

Of Ordnance I would carry eight Brass Guns of eighteen or at least twelve pounds Bullet, some hollow Bullets, and 3 or 4 Mortar-pieces of the middle Size ; a great number of Shells, some Field-pieces, store of Hand-Grenadoes, and all Ingredients for Carcasses and Fire-works, with a good quantity of the best Gunpowder, together with all Tools necessary for Miners and Pioneers.

Among the Shipping I wou'd have two Bomb-Ketches: Out of every Ship may be drawn

drawn a sufficient number of People to serve the Batteries or any Service ashore for some time. These also to be ordered into Independent Companies.

Besides the Forces to be sent from *Europe*, his Majesty may, out of all his Dominions in *America*, without any Danger or Prejudice to 'em, draw a great number of brisk and active People, sending thither before-hand Somebody that should carry 'em his Commissions, and encourage 'em to be ready to go where the Service should require, and Lift 'em to that purpose. The Officers would Instruct and Exercise 'em in the mean while, until they should be order'd to March towards the Rendezvous.

What I propose of the number of People which may be drawn from every place, may be alter'd more or less as the Officer sent, and the Governors of the respective Places shall judge for the best.

Such an Army well govern'd, and wanting no Necessaries nor Supplies of Arms and Ammunition, may, under the Command of good Officers, conquer and subdue all the *West-Indies*, and secure to *England* the greatest part of the Riches of the World.

I observ'd before the ill Effects of sharing the Plunder, and the bad Consequences of it ;
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the Remedy may be this. If his Majesty would give Order that such Plunder, as pieces of Plate from Churches, publick and private Houses, Sums of Mony out of publick Houses, Pigs of Silver, Ingots of Gold, Slaves, Coppers, Mills for Sugar, quantities of Indigo, Cotton, Natto, Cacao, Sugars, Tobacco, Hides, Dying Wood, &c. be all reserv'd for the King's Use, and suffer nothing to be Plunder'd but Cloths, Linnen, and loose Mony, which may be also considerable: And if out of the Produce of the aforesaid Goods retained and reserved, the King would be pleas'd to give such a Gratuity as he may think fit to his Standing Forces, such perhaps as may amount to Half-pay, and whole Pay to his Militia, it would (I conceive) satisfy every Body, and prevent Disorders and Murmurs. I reckon the Number of People each Colony may send, after this following manner.

1540 Men

In all

D Places
The Majesty sending out a General Pardon
to all his Subjects who would
bring in a great number of em or all
Nations: They agree well together against
the Spaniards, would be fit for any service.

Places.	Companies	Men
Barbadoes,	4	400
Antegoa,	2	200
Mountserrat,	1	100
Nevis,	2	200
St. Christophers,	1	100
Jamaica,	5	500
Providence,	1	100
Bermudas,	1	100
Carolina,	8	800
Virginia,	40	4000
Pensylvania,	8	800
Mary Land,	8	800
New Jersey,	8	800
New York,	10	1000
New England,	40	4000
Buckaneers,	10	1000
	149	14900
Officers 4 to each Company,		596

In all

15496 Men.

His Majesty sending out a general Pardon and Amnesty to all Buckaneer-Pirates, would soon bring in a great number of 'em of all Nations: They agree well together against the Spaniards, would be fit for any Service, and soon be at Jamaica.

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The French may have in *America*, by what I could observe my Self and learn of Others, Men fit for Service.

	Men.
In <i>Cyenne</i> ,	400
<i>Martinico</i> ,	1500
<i>Guadeloupe</i> ,	800
<i>Marie Galante</i> ,	200
<i>St. Christophers</i> ,	500
<i>Grenade</i> ,	300
<i>Hispaniola</i> ,	5000
<i>Canada</i> ,	5000

In all 13700

The Dutch may have also in all,

In <i>Surinam</i> ,	900
<i>Essecape</i> ,	200
<i>Berbiche</i> ,	200
<i>Eustathia</i> ,	200
<i>Saba</i> ,	100
<i>Curacao</i> ,	500

2100 Men

The Spaniards have not in all *America*, by the best Informations I could get, one hundred thousand Men, and perhaps not near so many; they are dispers'd into several Places
very

very distant one from another. 'Tis easily to be believed, if we rightly consider the Disposition of the *Spaniards* in general; the Barrenness of their Women, and the Nature of the Country, where they are for the most part settled.

New-England and *Virginia* can afford some thousands of Men more than I mention, *Virginia* especially, which has no troublesome Neighbours to fear; Two Thirds of the Inhabitants of *New-England*, all the People of *Pescatway*, *Acadie*, and *Newfoundland*, live and depend upon the Fishing-Trade; the best half of their Ships go for *Spain*, *Portugal*, and the *Streights*; the rest are employ'd in Voyages to the Southern Colonies, so that most of those People, if we have a War, will be at leisure, and may be very serviceable. In what I propose about the Islands an Objection may arise, That they must keep their People to guard and defend themselves. But this may be remedy'd by Transporting thither good Numbers of Scotch Servants, engaged to serve as usually for so many Years. The Planters like 'em very well, and will freely entertain 'em. They would soon learn the use of their Arms, and help to guard and defend the Place.

When I consider the great Inconveniences which I have observ'd to attend giving of
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the Plunder to Soldiers, the Difficulties or rather the Impossibilities of dividing it to their Content and Satisfaction, I cannot but urge and insist again on what I had but hinted at before, That his Majesty would be pleased to grant and send his Commissions to all the Officers to be rais'd to encourage them the better, and to allow 'em all, Officers and Soldiers, such a Pay as they may deserve and esteem just, considering that they shall have, whilst upon Service, all Provisions and Ammunitions found at the King's Charge.

And the King may easily do it providing in time good store of Beef and Pork from *Ireland*; of Beef-pork, Salt-fish, Bisket and Pease from *New England*; and a Ship or two loaded with Salt, if possible from *France*, being the best to preserve Flesh and Fish.

There is in most parts of *America* a vast number of Cattel wild and tame, of Sheep, Goats, and Hogs, finding Victuals for every Body: Killing and Destroying of Cattle and Stock shou'd be strictly forbidden, and you may procure People, as Butchers and such-like, whose whole Business would be to Dress and Salt such Meats. There is also in some places a great quantity of Manatees or Sea-Cows, of Turtles, and other sort of Fish. The Islands likewise will furnish abundance of Rum, Lime-Juice, and Sugar to make Drink.

If the King would be pleas'd to send some few Officers of the *Mint* in his Fleet, with all Things necessary for Coining : They may Coin the Spanish Gold and Silver that should fall into our Hands, and the Army might be paid with it : This way would make a large Addition to the English Coin, to the great and general Benefit of the Nation.

The taking of *Canada* may be easie enough if we attack it at once both by Sea and Land, and not as it was done lately by very unskilful People. The keeping of *Canada*, and settling and fortifying that large Island of *Newfoundland*, will hinder the French from Fishing upon the great Bank, and consequently diminish greatly, if not totally ruin their Maritime Power.

Martinico is the only place of Strength the French have in *America*, its Fort-Royal is impregnable any other way than by Famine, but it may easily be bombarded, whereby you may ruin and burn the Houses and Buildings in it ; and perhaps the very Magazines and Cisterns, after which they cannot subsist long, and will be forc'd to Surrender.

Granada is of very little Strength, having but few Inhabitants : Its Fort is on the top of a Hill, and was surpriz'd and taken by one *Erasmus* a single Dutch Privateer : Its Harbour is very large, and capable of holding many of the

the greatest Ships. This Island is not subject to Hurricanes, its Situation lying near *Trinity* Island and the Spanish Coast; and those other places by which most of the Spanish Ships pass in going to their *West-India* Plantations, makes it very considerable.

It has many Rivers of excellent Water, the Land is Hilly about the Harbour and the North-side, but towards the South and West very level; Cacao-Trees and the Vanilio grow there naturally.

In lieu of sending two Regiments (as it is discoursed of) to *Jamaica*, I would only draw Detachments from all the Regiments here in *England* and *Ireland*, perhaps also from *Scotland*; model 'em all into Independant Companies, and give 'em Commanders out of the Reformed and Half-pay Officers:

The Regiments keeping all their Officers would soon Recruit and be fill'd again with new Soldiers, who would presently be Disciplin'd; and these Independant Companies would be as Serviceable as if they were Regimented, and be of less Charge to the Nation.

I would also Propose to send these Companies as soon as possible to the North-Continent of *America*: For Example, two to *Newfoundland*,

foundland, six to *New England*, four to *New York*, and so of all the other Companies; it would make no great Noise, and Alarm no Body, not being likely to be thought or presum'd to intend farther than the Defence of all those Places. The Transport from that Northern Continent to the Southward is very easie, and may be done at any time together with the Provisions, all the Parts of *New England* having great number of Ships of their own.

The sending of two Regiments to the Island of *Jamaica* will cause many Inconveniencies. *Jamaica* is unhealthy, and many will be sick and die before you can bring 'em to Action; the Northern parts of *America* are as healthy as *England*; *Jamaica* lies to the Leward of all the *French Colonies*, so that it is very difficult and sometimes impossible, always very tedious, and long, to turn up to the Windward; the Winds are contrary, and the Current's against you very often so strong, that a brisk favourable westerly Wind cannot make you overcome it.

I would gather all the Forces to the Islands of *Barbadoes* and the *Caribees*: They lie to the Westward of all the *French* and *Spanish Colonies*; the Wind is always favourable to go to 'em at pleasure.

I humbly propose the Attacking of the *French* first. If a War breaks out towards the Spring, most of the Forces being ready in the Continent of *New England*, I would begin by Attacking *Canada* by Sea and Land in the beginning of the Summer, the Conquest of it may be thoroughly perfected before the fit time of attempting any considerable Action in the Southern Colonies.

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The timing well your Attempt is so very necessary, that without it you cannot with any Probability succeed; yet it has been hitherto so little regarded that all our Fleets for the *West-Indies* in the late War arrived always, and thought of some Action when the Hurricanes began to be feared and expected.

It was very far in *June* when we attack'd *St. Christopher's*; it was the beginning of it also when we landed at *Martinico*, and it was also in *June* when *Willmot* and *Lillingston* attack'd *Port de Paix* in *Hispaniola*.

Had *Ruiter* been at *Martinico* any other time but *June*, he would have certainly taken it: The *Dutch* committed many Errors in their Attack. But the only thing which forced 'em to withdraw, was that it being Hurricane Time, and *Ruiter*, seeing great appearance of a Storm, would not venture his Fleet, and caused that suddain Retreat.

The *French* who were but few had no other Defence but a very bad Pallisado, and a narrow Trench, almost fill'd up in many places, could not possibly have resisted a brisk Attack with Sword and Pistol in Hand. But the *Dutch* must needs land in order, tho' they saw no Body to oppose their Landing, and wou'd not advance upon the Enemy until they had form'd their Batalions, as if they had been in a pitch'd Battel; they were all this while exposed from Head to Foot to the Muskets of the Enemy and the great and small Guns of a Man of War which lay in the then Careening place, commanded by *M. d'Amblimont*, who dy'd lately General for the *French* King in *America*. That same Night the *Dutch* retreated, the *French* left and abandon'd their Fort, judging it untenable, and expecting the *Dutch* would have storm'd it the next Morning.

All things should be so ordered that the Fleet and Forces may arrive where you intend to make your Attack: In the beginning of *October* the Hurricane time is just over, and you may venture your Fleet any where during nine Months, and you have then three Months

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that the Heat is but moderate, and the Weather for the most part very clear and dry, the best Time for Action.

I would put the Forces upon Action and Attack as soon as they arrive, and so make the best use of their Strength and Health, and not stay until the Heat of the Weather or any other Cause should pull their Courage down or they should fall sick and be out of order.

In the *West-Indies* I would begin with *Martinico*; take that Island from the *French* and you'll ruin 'em in all their Colonies: There they keep all their Stores for Ships and Land-Forces. It is easy to block up *Fort Royal* by Sea and Land; by falling upon the Island unexpectedly, and landing near the Fort of a sudden you may hinder the People from going and carrying any Provisions and Water into the Fort; and dry Weather may happen, so that there may be but little Water in the Cistern. One may encamp round about it very well and comodiously all along a River of good Water: The Country about it is also full of Provisions.

The Fort being besieged and block'd up, I wou'd ply 'em Night and Day with Bombs and Carcasses in order to burn and destroy their Houses, Magazines and Cisterns. From some of the neighbouring Hills, Guns may shoot at random into the Fort, and raking along may do much damage.

Having left People enough to maintain and continue the Siege some considerable Body of Forces may be sent all over the Island to subdue it, which I am confident would be easy enough, especially if his Majesty intending the Conquest of all the Colonies, would give out and proclaim, that he intends to keep the Island to Himself and would receive its Inhabitants into his Protection as Subjects, and so forbid burning and destroying of Plantations and Houses. Very many if not all would submit, and it would be easy afterwards to banish and force away those that should be deemed unfit to be kept there as Inhabitants.

I would also take, keep and fortify the Island of *Grenada*;

nada; It has an excellent large Harbour; It is never troubled with Hurricanes. And the *Spanish* Ships going to their western Plantations pass near and often in sight of it. That Island is better than any of the *Englisch* Caribbees, *Barbadoes* excepted. It might soon be settled and made a profitable Colony.

All the rest of the *French* Colonies would easily be subdued. I would ruin 'em and transport what I would keep of 'em to *Martinico* or *Granada*. There are still in the *French* Islands, many Protestants, *French* and *Dutch*, who may be trusted and depended upon.

The taking of *Martinico* would discourage the *French*, and I am confident would hinder 'em from assisting the *Spaniards* in the *West-Indies*: How could they with reason venture out thither a considerable Fleet, after the Loss of *Martinico*, the only strong Hold they have, being sensible that the *Englisch* can be always their Superiours in those Parts whensoever they please?

All our Caribee Islands being secured by the Taking and Keeping *Martinico*, some few Frigots might suffice to protect and defend 'em from any Insult, and they may spare some of their People to help to attack the *Spaniards*.

The Island of *Cuba* is that of the *Spanish* I would begin with; the *Havana* its chief Town is very strong on the Harbour and Sea-side, but would be easily enough taken if besieged on the Country and Land-side; and as we commonly say, in form with those Preparations that are requisite in Sieges. You may land in many places, and the March is easy from thence to the Town: The Country abounds in Cattel, Sheep, Goats and Hogs: The Bays are well stored with Fish, Manatees and Turtles: The Country Provisions very plenty every where: The Bay of *Mattancas* would perhaps be the fittest place to land in and to preserve the Fleet, some few Frigots being sufficient to stop and block up the Harbour's Mouth during the Siege.

The taking and keeping the *Havana* would soon ruin the *Spaniards* in the *West-Indies*: As their Ships coming, pass near

near *Granada*; going home, they must pass also near the *Havana*, and so through the *Bahamas*: So that some Frigots at *Granada* and some at *Havana* would annoy the Spaniards going and coming.

I would by all means keep and settle *Cuba*, tho' forced to abandon some other Settlements, it may perhaps be done without deserting any other place with some People out of *New England*, the least profitable of all the Colonies.

Having *Cuba*, we may easily seize *Porto Bello*, *Chiagre*, and *Panama*, and so command both North and South Seas in *America*.

The Design I propose is great, and may perhaps appear Impossible to some People; but I am sincerely persuaded of the Feasibleness of it to the *English* Nation, so very populous and so very strong in the *West-Indies*.

— *Quod nemo promittere Divum
Auderet volvenda dies certe asseret Ultro.*

There is nothing wanting for so great an Undertaking but a faithful, honest, hearty, and honourable disinterested Mind in the Commanding Officers. The Success of such an Enterprize would enrich the *English* Nation beyond measure, making her Mistress of most of the Mines of Gold and Silver, besides all the Productions peculiar to that part of the World, as Sugars, Coaco's, Cotton, Indigo, Nato, Tobacco, &c. What Increase would it not bring to its Navigation and Shipping? All sorts of Merchant Ships may be built in the Northern *America*, or with Timber brought from thence, whilst the *English* Oak, so very Excellent for building, may be kept and reserv'd only for Building of Men of War.

I am Confident, and I dare maintain it, That the Conquest of all the *Spanish* and *French* Colonies in *America*, would never cost *England* what the Taking of *Namur* did in Blood and Money. It would without doubt, make the *English* Nation the strongest and the richest of the World: And that it may be so, is the hearty Wish of a faithful and devoted Subject.

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